

DON YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Resources
Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 1998

Mr. Lester Snow
Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 9th Street, Room 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

As you will remember the Subcommittee on Water and Power held a hearing concerning the fiscal year 1998 federal funding request for the CALFED program in April of last year. Over the last several months I and the Subcommittee staff have been asked if the information we need to consider supporting the 1999 CALFED appropriations had been made available. We have repeatedly indicated that there were questions raised last year at the hearing that have not been answered. Each time we have been assured that the information will be immediately forthcoming. As of the Energy and Water Appropriations hearing yesterday, that has not happened.

We are contemplating holding another hearing on that program within the next 6-8 weeks to provide the Subcommittee members an opportunity to assess the progress of the program. In the next couple of weeks we would like to have these questions addressed by your office. For the sake of clarity I have listed the questions below.

1. What criteria and/or performance standards have been developed to evaluate the expenditures under the program? How will we determine if funding for habitat enhancement or environmental restoration is in fact recovering species and reducing the conflicts between environmental and urban/agricultural water uses?
2. What steps have been taken to ensure that all property acquisition under this program are based on a willing seller/willing buyer transaction? What policies have been adopted by the individual agencies to make sure that agency personnel are not manipulating permitting request evaluations to discourage landowner options or reduce the value of their property?
3. What steps are being taken to ensure that members of the public, who may be affected either directly or indirectly, are aware of the program and in particular the extensive acquisition of private property or private property interests?

<http://www.house.gov/resources/>

G - 0 0 6 7 5 3

G-006753

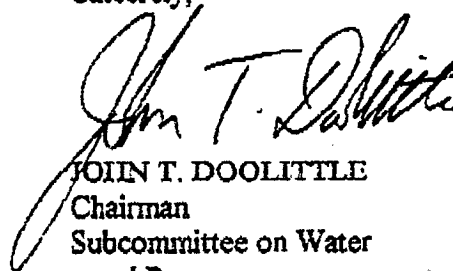
2

4. What mitigation steps are being undertaken to reduce the impact on local economies from taking private land out of production?
5. What level of commitment has been seen by those interested primarily in environmental restoration, for supporting the water supply enhancements in the later phases of the program.

Before the Subcommittee members and other members can take informed positions on this year's funding requests, these questions should be answered.

Should you have any questions, please contact Bob Faber or Josh Johnson of the Committee Staff at 225-8331.

Sincerely,



JOHN T. DOOLITTLE
Chairman
Subcommittee on Water
and Power

cc: The Honorable Joseph McDade
Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt
Governor Pete Wilson